The decline in industrial production is partially explained by massive import compression. But there are other factors such as bottlenecks in infrastructure and tight money policy.

Number of aircraft operating in India's National and International Airlines

1. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is that total number of planes with India's National and International airlines at present;

(b) what is the number out of these that are to be replaced and if so, by when;

(c) what type of plane is found suitable for flights and whether any new orders are pending for new aircraft from other countries; and

(d) what norms are followed in purchasing aircraft for commercial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The total number of planes with Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot, at present, are 22, 55 and 17 respectively.

(b) Vayudoot has no immediate plans of fleet renewal, Air-India and Indian Airlines have been advised to plan for a more modern and younger fleet. However, as yet there are no firm plans for replacement of existing aircraft.

(c) In accordance with pay load and range considerations, Indian Airlines require 100-seater, 150-seater and 300-seater aircraft for its operations while Air India requires 200-seater medium range, 300-seater long range and 400-seater long range aircraft for its operations.

Indian Airlines would receive 12 A 320 aircraft in 1993-94 and Air India 4 Boeing-747-400 in 1993-94.

(d) Various aircraft meeting commercial pay-load and range criteria of the concerned airline are subjected to techno-economic evaluation by expert committees followed by investment approval by competent authorities.

Foreign Investment in India's Tourism Sector

2. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to attract foreign investment in India's tourism sector with liberal fiscal incentives;

(b) whether Government have consulted the State Government in this regard and, if so, what has been their response and what facilities they have offered; and

(c) what is the response of foreign investors in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Hotels and Tourism related industry is now a high priority industry and automatic approvals are available for foreign investment and collaboration within specified parameters. Various other incentives are also given to attract investment in this sector.

(b) Yes, Sir. Most of the State Government have accorded industry status to tourism and are providing various incentives/concessions to tourism sector.

(c) The response is positive.

National Park at Taj Mahal

3. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a national park is sought to be established in the Taj Mahal area at Agra, extending to Fatehpur Sikri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 18, 1989 between the Department of Tourism, Government of India and the United States National Park Service, a joint concept plan would be prepared for the development of the Agra Heritage Sites. The concept is to establish guidelines and policies for development and for providing visitor services and